

NEWCASTLE-EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report upon the health and sanitation of your area for the year 1945.

Area, 208 acres.

Population, 758.

Number of Houses, 253. Rateable Value, £3071.

Product of Penny Rate, £11 18 0.

The town is one of the three shopping centres in the fertile Teifi Valley and neighbouring countryside, most employment is used in the Shops, the Cheese Factory, Egg Grading Station, and the Shirt Factory. A number of Newcastle-Emlyn born people live in retirement here.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births, 6 Males and 2 Females. No Still Births.

Birth Rate is 10.5 per 1000 as compared with 16.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths, 8. Death Rate 10.5 per 1000 (11.4 England & Wales)

Average age at death—62.

Tuberculosis.

12 cases remain on the Register, but only 1 is in an active stage, it is thought that several on the register are either cured or were misdiagnosed. No new cases were notified.

Cancer.

2 deaths were due to Cancer. Attention is called to the excellent X Ray treatment now available at Cardiff and Swansea, provided the cases are seen early.

Infectious Disease.

No cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1945.

IMMUNISATION against Diphtheria has elicited an almost 100 per cent. response from the mothers. Only two families who state that they are conscientious objectors to immunisation, remain uninoculated. This brings our figure of immunised children down to 97 per cent.

Venereal Diseases.

The availability of Penicillin for the treatment of Gonorrhœa and Syphilis—the two crippling venereal diseases—should be widely known. Patients can be treated free at the Swansea centre 46 miles away, or by their own doctor. The results are revolutionary if the patient attends in the early stages.

Gastro Enteritis of Infants.

There were no cases of this disease reported in 1945. Several epidemics of Virus Dysentery of a mild type were encountered, but there were no deaths. Investigations showed that some of the cases were due to the Sonne Bacillus. It should be widely circulated that this is an infectious and contagious complaint, its spread being due to personal uncleanness, and that, as in Typhoid, some patients become chronic carriers afterwards.

Water Supply.

There is copious supply of pure water of exceptional softness available. There is also evidence that some of it does not get to where it is wanted, owing to leakages at the source and in the pipes. The Council must rectify this, as an abundant supply to each household is essential to cleanliness, and the best protection against epidemics in communities.

Sewerage System.

It must be admitted that this is in a sorry plight. I sincerely hope that the Council will find it possible to embark in the near future, on a comprehensive, well planned and far sighted new scheme.

Scavenging.

It is my personal opinion that there should be a twice weekly collection of refuse. The 'open cart' system is an eye sore and an anachronism.

Public Conveniences.

As soon as finances permit I hope it will be possible to provide a new convenience near the town clock, minor repairs are urgently needed to the present one in that locality.

Rat Infestation.

This has increased during the latter part of this year and further and constant efforts are being successfully made to deal with it.

Housing.

It is hoped that plans will be ready for the building of the first dozen new houses very shortly. The town needs many more, but lacks the space to put them up in without an extension of our boundaries. Building has been going on haphazardly on the outskirts of the Urban Council for years. Some 15-20 houses in the Rural Council area geographically, are really part of our community.

Milk Supply.

The two farms supplying the area are outside the Council's jurisdiction; frequent tests are made by the County Analyst, and I am informed that no sample has been found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

This continues to serve a useful purpose, with the end of the war and better transport facilities, it is hoped that the country folk will once again be able to patronize it.

General Remarks.

I have pleasure in giving you this fairly satisfactory report on the health of your community, asking you at the same time for your help in encouraging people to attend their doctors early, especially with suspected Tuberculosis—the great scourge of Wales—with suspected Cancer or Venereal Disease. We look forward very shortly to a National Medical Service, where we can all work together, to eliminate, if possible, all the dread diseases of mankind

I remain, Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

J. PENRY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

